

Learning With Wikis

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What is a wiki?

(thanks to Lee and Sachi Lefever)

- A collaborative web space that can be viewed and changed by anyone* on line. The most widely known wiki is Wikipedia.
- “Seven Things You Should Know About Wikis” (Educause Learning Initiative)

Thinking beyond the tools

- How does the tool promote a fundamental literacy?
- How does the technology add to and extend the learning experience?
- What pedagogy will ensure the success of 1 and 2?

(D. Jakes)

“Extending the learning”

- Allow 24-7 editing accessibility
- Improve collaborative writing skills
- Make students “published”
- Synthesize and negotiate text
- Utilize a variety of multi-media
- Increase “formative” assessment

Cooperative Learning (Johnson and Johnson)

■ **Positive Interdependence**

- Task
- Role
- Goal
- Resource

■ **Individual Accountability**

- Review of history
- Individual/group assessment

Cooperative Learning

- **Group Processing**
 - Self evaluation
 - Comments on wiki
- **Social/ Cooperative Skills**
 - Digital Professionalism
- **(Face to Face interaction)**

Sample uses

- Lit Circle “Cliff’s Notes”
- Student-Generated assessments
(Inquiry project)
- On-Line Text book

Essential questions:

- What are the features of a wiki?
- How do I make and use a wiki?
- What are the practical applications?
- What are the advantages?
- What are the concerns?
- How do I ensure student learning?

Features on most wikis

- Edit
 - New page
 - Add/ edit text
 - Insert files, images, movies, hyperlinks
 - Imbed HTML
- Save

More Features of Wikis

- History
 - Green= added
 - Yellow= changed
 - Red=deleted
- User settings:
 - Public
 - Restricted
 - Private

How do I make and use one?

- Select a wiki location*
- Initiate the space
- Decide on privacy parameters
- Enroll users
- Give “the charge”

Wiki locations

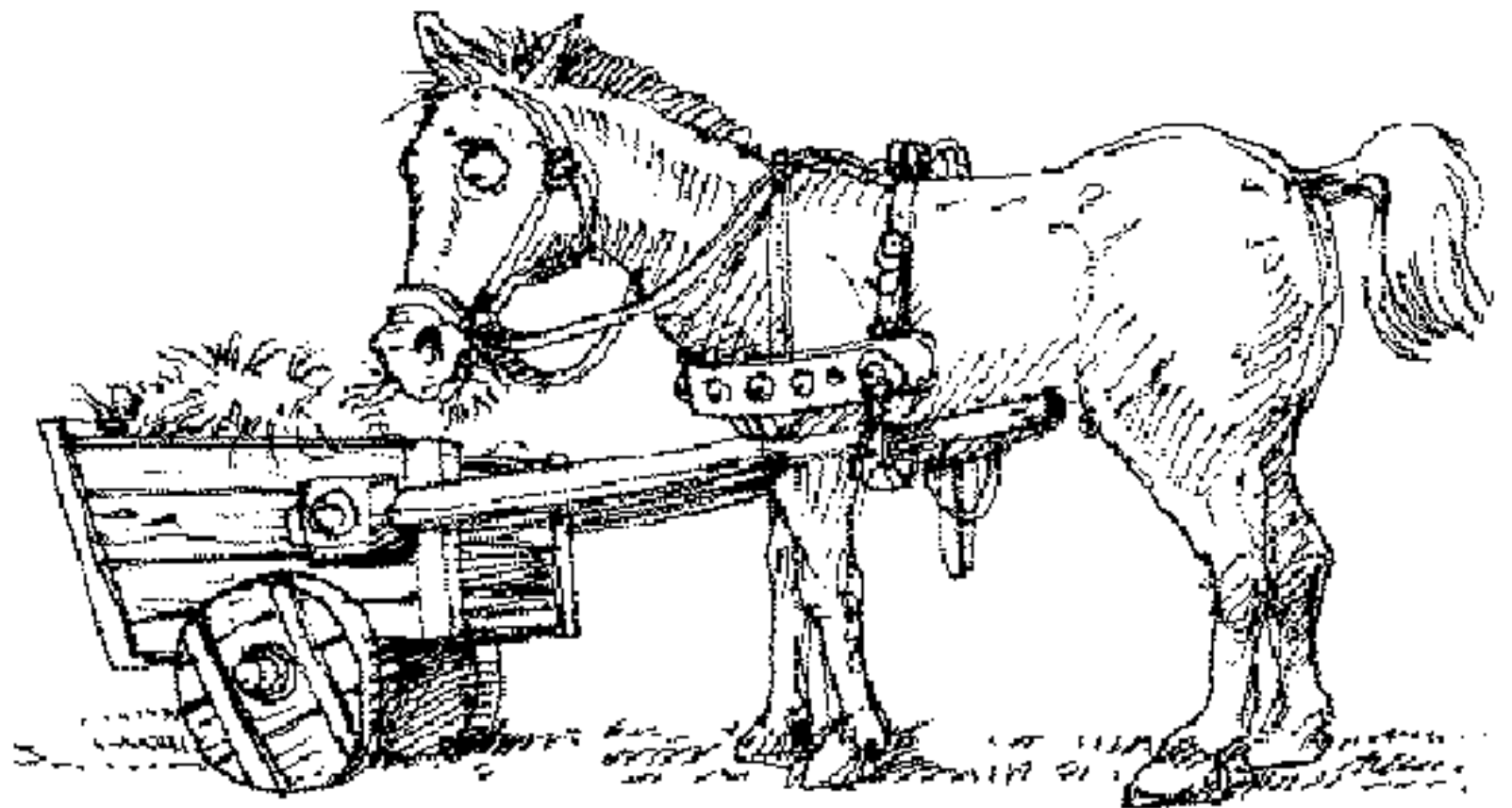
- Content Management Systems (Blackboard, Moodle)
- [Wikispaces](#)
- [Wetpaint](#)
- [Pbwiki](#)
- [Jottit](#)

Which one is [best](#) for me?

What are the practical applications?

Samples from [wikispaces](#)

What collaborative projects would benefit from a wiki?



PUTTING THE CART BEFORE THE HORSE

Instead of...

“Wikis are really cool. How can we get kids to use them?”

Think...

“We have this collaborative task; how are we going to compile all the information together? Hey, let’s use a wiki!”

Most important

Develop a project that is not merely assessed and “turned in.”

Instead, the resulting product is something that can be utilized by contributors and/or viewers.

What are the advantages of wikis?

- Relatively simple technology
- Promotes “real-world” collaboration skills
- Asynchronous writing results in richer communication (Mabrito, 2006)
- Pools strengths of many

More advantages

- Assessable, easy to track
- Enables world-wide collaboration
- Online collaborative writing produces higher quality writing than face-to-face collaboration (Passig and Schwartz, 2007)
- Meets state standards*

What concerns exist?

- Lack of security/safety
- Labor intensive for moderator
- “Copy and paste” philosophy
- Inequitable work distribution
- “Quilt” instead of a “comforter”

How do I ensure student learning?

- Develop an acceptable use policy to ensure “Digital Professionalism.”
- Create student-generated rubrics and have students self assess. “Assessment *for* learning” (Stiggins).
- Monitor progress and give feedback on the wiki itself.
- Instill Cooperative Learning pedagogy.

ISBE Standards met

- **3.B.4b** Produce, edit, revise and format work for submission and/or publication (e.g., manu-script form, appropriate citation of sources) using contemporary technology.
- **3.B.4c** Evaluate written work for its effectiveness and make recommendations for its improvement.

More ISBE Standards

- **3.C.4b** Using available technology, produce compositions and multimedia works for specified audiences
- **1.B.4b** Analyze, interpret and compare a variety of texts for purpose, structure, content, detail and effect.